

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SSC-01 FEAE-00
INT-05 AGR-05 /088 W

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O R 251715Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5504

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 1118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ZA

SUBJECT: KAUNDA ANNOUNCES MAJOR GOVERNMENT SHUFFLE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KAUNDA CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CABINET, PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO ANNOUNCE GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC MINISTRIES. TWO MINISTERS WERE FIRED INCLUDING MINISTER OF MINES AXON SOKO. THE ECONOMIC MINISTRIES WERE GENERALLY RE-ORGANIZED WITH CHANGES IN POSITIONS OF EXISTING MINISTERS. THREE NEW MINISTERIAL LEVEL APPOINTEES WERE NAMED, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WAS DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMANDER CHINKULI TO THE MINES MINISTRY. THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED THE MEASURES WERE AIMED AT RECTIFYING DEFICIENCIES IN THE ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY ENDING SHORTAGES. HE PROMISED TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO CHANGES IN PARTY ORGANIZATION IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. END SUMMARY.
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1. ON APRIL 22, PRESIDENT KAUNDA CALLED A MEETING OF THE PRESS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO ANNOUNCE MAJOR CHANGES IN HIS CABINET AND MINISTRIES. HE SAID THE CHANGES WERE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ZAMBIA AND SOLVE MANY OF THE OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE CRITICIZED THE MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY FOR ALLOWING

SHORTAGES TO OCCUR ESPECIALLY FOR SUCH COMMODITIES AS SUGAR IN WHICH ZAMBIA IS SELF-SUFFICIENT. HE WARNED THAT RHODESIAN LEADER IAN SMITH WOQLD SOON VENT HIS WRATH ON ZAMBIA AND LIKENED THIS EXPECTED ACTION TO THE KICKS OF A DYING HORSE. TO MEET HTE PRESENT AND EXPECTED PROBLEMS IT WAS NECESSARY TO MWKE CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY TO IMPROVE THE TEAM WORKING WITH PRIME MINISTER MUDENDA. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO SEE ZAMBIA DEVELOP AS A SOCIETY OF PEASANTS AND WORKERS BUT SAID TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE NECESSARY TO OVERCOME PRESENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES. HE SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD BANK TO IDENTIFY NINE PROJECTS, ONE FOR EACH PROVINCE OF ZAMBIA, FOR INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT. THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE FINANCED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IF PRIVATE INVESTORS WERE INVOLVED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUIRE THAT IT HAVE A CONTROLLING SHARE.

2. THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED:

(A) MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY AXOM SOKO WAS FIRED FOR TRYING TO ORGANIZE EX UNITED PEOPLES PARTY MEMBERS IN EASTERN PROVINCE FOR A "RETURN TO THE FOLD". MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRY SPLIT INTO TWO MINISTRIES WITH GENERAL K.G. CHINKULI, DEFENSE FORCE ARMY COMMANDER, AS MINISTER OF MINES.

(B) MINISTER OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM SEFELINO MULENGA FIRED FOR "ABUSE OF POWER". MINISTRY SPLIT UP INTO VARIOUS COMPONENTS WITH K.B. MUSOKOTWANE AS MINISTER OF WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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(C) MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS ZONGANI BANDA FIRED FOR WORKING WITH AXON SOKO. REPLACED BY J. MUMPANSHYA.

(D) MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PAUL LUSAKA REASSIGNED AS MINISTER OF PWER, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS REPLACING JAMES MAPOMA WHO BECOMES MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN TRADE (NEW TITLE). MAPOMA REPLACES MUTUMBA BULL WHO HAS RELINQUISHED HER POST DUE TO ILL HEALTH.

(E) MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVIDED UP WITH NEW MINISTRY OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE TO BE HEADED BY ALEX B. CHIKWANDA, FORMER MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING.

(F) MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PETER MATOKA BECOMES MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION MAKING THAT A FULL FLEDGED MINISTRY. MINISTER OF STATE LILY MONZA RETAINS HER POSITION IN THAT MINISTRY.

(G) MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BECOMES COMMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER. J. LUMINA, FORMER MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECOMES MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE COMMISSION.

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(H) HASWELL MWALE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS BECOMES MINISTER OF WORKS.

(I) MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND INDUSTRY REMY CHISUPA BECOMES MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, NEW POSITION SPUN OFF FROM MINES AND INDUSTRY (SEE A ABOVE).

(J) J. SIYOMUNJI, FORMER MINISTER FOR CENTRAL PROVINCE BECOMES MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING (SEE E ABOVE).

(K) BRIG. GEN. ENOS HAIMBE RELEASED FROM HIS DUTIES IN ZAMBIA NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE TO CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON HIS DUTIES AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SAMBIA AIRWAYS.

(L) TOURISM INCORPORATED INTO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

3. PROVINCIAL MINISTERIAL CHANGES:

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(A) MINISTER SYLVESTER TEMBO, SOUTHERN PROVINCE TO WESTERN PROVINCE (REPLACES WILLIAM NKANZA WHO HAS RELINQUISHED POST FOR REASONS OF HEALTH BUT WILL BE GIVEN A DIPLOMATIC POSTING.)

(B) MINISTER WILLIE MWONDELA MOVES FROM LUAPULA PROVINCE TO SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

(C) R.C. SAKUHUKA BECOMES MINISTER FOR LUAPULA PROVINCE. HE WAS FORMERLY DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

(D) MINISTER JOSEPH MUTALE BECOMES MINISTER FOR EASTERN PROVINCE AND SYLVESTER CHISEMBELE BECOMES MINISTER FOR COPPERBELT PROVINCE (THESE TWO MINISTERS SIMPLY SWAPPED POSITIONS).

(E) FORMER MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION MUFAYA MUMBUNA BECOMES MINISTER FOR CENTRAL PROVINCE REPLACING SIYOMUNJI WHO MOVED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING (SEE 1 ABOVE).

4. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD BOTH WORDS OF PRAISE AND ADMONITION FOR THE NEW APPOINTEES. HE CHARGES THAT THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE SHORTAGES OF SUCH ITEMS AS SUGAR, SALT OR VEGETABLE OIL. HE ADVISED THE NEW AND OLD MINISTERS ALIKE TO REMAIN IN THEIR OFFICES RATHER THAN GO ABOUT "CANVASSING". HE ENCOURAGED RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL DEPOSITS INCLUDING GOLD, URANIUM AND EMERALDS AND INSISTED THAT ZAMBIA HAD OIL DEPOSITS TO BE TAPPED. HE CALLED FOR DISCIPLINE AND AN END TO BOTH CORRUPTION, DRINKING AND LOAFING. HE FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD TURN HIS ATTENTION TO THE PARTY DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

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5. COMMENT: THE CHANGES IN PERSONNEL ARE EVIDENCE OF THE PERSONALIZATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA. THE NEW APPOINTEES

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ARE MOSTLY YOUNG AND UNIVERSALLY LOYAL TO, AND DEPENDENT ON, PRESIDENT KAUNDA. THEY LACK BOTH EXPERIENCE AND POLITICAL STRENGTH AND WERE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF LOYALTY RATHER THAN ON ANY VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF ABILITY. THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE BASED ON ADMINISTRATIVE GROUNDS. THE UNWIELDY MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT WAS DIVIDED UP INTO

SEVERAL MINISTRIES AND THE CREATION OF AN AGRICULTURE MINISTRY SHOWS A HEALTHY, CONTINUED DESIRE TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SECTOR. OBVIOUSLY A MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY ACTING ALONE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON INDUSTRIES' PROBLEMS RATHER THAN BEING LUMPED TOGETHER WITH THE MINES WHICH OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY ANYWAY. IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE MOVEMENT OF TOURISM TO INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE TOTAL LACK OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOURISM SECTOR BUT IT CAN'T POSSIBLY DO WORSE.

6. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON CHANGES IN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCES.

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